REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

This notice is placed by ESCWA. The accuracy, reliability and completeness of the contents of furnished information is the responsibility of ESCWA. You are therefore requested to direct all queries regarding this EOI to ESCWA using the fax number or e-mail address provided below.

Title of the EOI:
Development of Comprehensive National Social Protection Systems and Reforms Country Profile (CP) in Tunisia

Date of this EOI: 18 July 2022  
Closing Date for Receipt of EOI: 26 July 2022

EOI Number: EOIESCWA20005

Beneficiary Country/Territory: Tunisia

Commodity/Service category: Professional Services

Address EOI response by fax or e-mail to the Attention of: Escwa Procurement Unit

Fax Number: N/A

E-mail Address: procurement-escwa@un.org

UNSPSC Code: 80101509, 80171904, 80171905, 80171906, 93140000, 93141500, 93141509, 93151504

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS

In recent years, Arab countries have undertaken or initiated wide-reaching reforms to adapt their social protection systems to the changing social, economic, and demographic conditions. Reflecting the region’s considerable heterogeneity, these reforms have been driven by variegated objectives: notably extending effective coverage to the most vulnerable and enhancing overall efficiency.

The Covid-19 pandemic and its socio-economic repercussions have further highlighted two seemingly paradoxical aspects of social protection systems in the region: firstly, the inability of existing arrangements to provide sufficient support for those who are not usually considered poor but whose living conditions may rapidly deteriorate in the event of a shock (e.g. workers in non-standard contractual arrangements), and, secondly, the potential of social protection systems to rapidly adapt and scale-up coverage.
SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS / INFORMATION (IF ANY)

In this context and upon the request of several Arab countries, including Tunisia, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) is seeking the services of a qualified firm (to act as a local collaborator) for conducting a comprehensive national social protection and reforms country Profile (CP) for Tunisia in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, as per a pre-designed template prepared by ESCWA (the template will be later provided to the selected vendor).

The services required shall include but not limited to:

- acts as ESCWA's focal point for the CP assignment and coordinates with the Ministry of Social Affairs in Tunisia and other relevant national stakeholders on the assignment;
- uses the mentioned template as main guiding document for drafting the CP;
- adheres to the standardized process of establishing the CP;
- assembles a team of co-authors who will be approved by the concerned ministry and ESCWA. The team of co-authors should ideally comprise at least:
  1- Researcher with qualitative skills to:
     - conduct qualitative data collection and literature review;
     - engages in drafting the CP.
  2- Researcher with quantitative skills:
     - conducts quantitative data collection;
     - engages in producing figures;
     - engages in drafting the CP.

The selected vendor furthermore ensures
- the relevant data and information necessary for drafting the CP - as indicated in the template - are collected;
- coordination with the government author and requests data and information as necessary via government entities;
- the total word limit of 35,000 is not exceeded and that the CP is finalized within the set timeline, which should not exceed 10 months.

The vendors that express interest will be invited to participate in the solicitation document which will be based on detailed Terms of Reference, UN General Conditions of Contracts, and other related requirements and documents.

Please note that UNESCWA precludes entering into a contract with a firm that is not fully registered in UNGM. For registration in UNGM, please refer to the notice, in the "Vendor Response Form" attached hereto.

This EOI does not constitute a solicitation. The United Nations reserve the right to change or cancel the requirements at any time in the EOI and/or solicitation process.

Those interested should write to the above-mentioned e-mail address and submit their “Expression of Interest” by the deadline of the EOI of 26 July 2022. The UN reserves the right to reject Expressions of Interest documents that are incomplete or are received after the stated deadline.

NOTE

Information on tendering for the UN Procurement System is available free of charge at the following address: https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice
Only the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) has been authorised to collect a nominal fee from vendors that wish to receive automatically Procurement Notices or Requests for Expression Of Interest. Vendors interested in this Tender Alert Service are invited to subscribe on http://www.ungm.org

Vendors interested in participating in the planned solicitation process should submit the Vendor Response Form of this EOI electronically (through the link available on the next page) before the closing date set forth above.
Companies can only participate in solicitations of the UN Secretariat after completing their registration (free of charge) at the United Nations Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org).

As you express interest in the planned solicitation by submitting this response form, please verify that your company is registered under its **full legal** name on the United Nations Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org) and that your application has been submitted to the **UN Secretariat**.

While companies can participate in solicitations after completion of registration at Basic Level, we strongly recommend all companies to register at least at **Level 1** under the United Nations Secretariat prior to participating in any solicitations.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You should express your interest to this EOI electronically at: https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/node/add/interest-expressed?EOI=EOIESCWA20005

In case you have difficulties submitting your interest electronically, please contact procurement-escwa@un.org directly for instructions.
EOI INSTRUCTIONS

1) Registering as a Vendor with the United Nations

Vendors interested in fulfilling the requirement described above must be registered at the UN Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org) with the UN Secretariat in order to be eligible to participate in any solicitation. Information on the registration process can be found at https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/vendors.

Prerequisites for Eligibility

In order to be eligible for UN registration, you must declare that:

A. Your company (as well as any parent, subsidiary or affiliate companies) is not listed in, or associated with a company or individual listed in:
   II. the IIC Oil for Food List website or, if listed on either, this has been disclosed to the United Nations Procurement Division in writing.

B. Your company (as well as any parent, subsidiary or affiliate companies) is not currently removed or suspended by the United Nations or any other UN organisation (including the World Bank);

C. Your company (as well as any parent, subsidiary of affiliate companies) is not under formal investigation, nor have been sanctioned within the preceding three (3) years, by any national authority of a United Nations Member State for engaging or having engaged in proscribed practices, including but not limited to: corruption, fraud, coercion, collusion, obstruction, or any other unethical practice;

D. Your company has not declared bankruptcy, are not involved in bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, and there is no judgment or pending legal action against your company that could impair your company's operations in the foreseeable future;

E. Your company does not employ, or anticipate employing, any person(s) who is, or has been a UN staff member within the last year, if said UN staff member has or had prior professional dealings with the Vendor in his/her capacity as UN staff member within the last three years of service with the UN (in accordance with UN post-employment restrictions published in ST/SGB/2006/15).

F. Your company undertakes not to engage in proscribed practices (including but not limited to: corruption, fraud, coercion, collusion, obstruction, or any other unethical practice), with the UN or any other party, and to conduct business in a manner that averts any financial, operational, reputational or other undue risk to the UN.

For Registered Vendors:

Vendors already registered at the UN Global Marketplace with the UN Secretariat must ensure that the information and documentation (e.g. financial statements, address, contact name, etc.) provided in connection with their registration are up to date in UNGM. Please verify and ensure that your company is registered under its full legal name.

For Vendors Interested in Registration:

Vendors not yet registered should apply for registration on the United Nations Global Marketplace (http://www.ungm.org); information on the registration process can be found at https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/vendors. Vendors must complete the registration process prior to the closing date of the REOI. Vendors who have not completed the UNGM registration process with the UN Secretariat before the closing date of the REOI are not considered eligible to participate in solicitations of the UN Secretariat. We strongly recommend all companies to register at least at Level 1 under the UN Secretariat prior to participating in any solicitations.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Any false, incomplete or defective vendor registration may result in the rejection of the application or cancellation of an already existing registration.

2) EOI Process

Vendors interested in participating in the planned solicitation process should forward their expression of interest (EOI) to ESCWA (ESCWA) by the closing date set forth in this EOI. Due to the high volume of communications ESCWA is not in a position to issue confirmation of receipt of EOIs.

Please note that no further details of the planned solicitation can be made available to the vendors prior to issuance of the solicitation documents.

This EOI is issued subject to the conditions contained in the EOI introductory page available at https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/eoi.